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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /081 W
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R 150630Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8162
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 5303

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, TU
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PUBLIC STATEMENT ON POLITICAL SITUATION
BY TURK-IS PRESIDENT TUNC

REF: ANKARA 5254

1. HALIL TUNC, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERATION OF TURKISH
TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS), PROVOKED PROMPT REACTIONS FROM MANY
QUARTERS BY HIS STATEMENT JULY 12 CALLING FOR A COALITION
BETWEEN THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) AND THE JUSTICE
PARTY (JP) AND THREATENING A GENERAL STRIKE SHOULD THE
RIGHTIST PARTIES' COALITION WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.
OF SPECIAL NOTE WERE THE RESPONSES OF GENERAL SANCAR, CHIEF
OF THE GENERAL STAFF, (REPORTED REFTEL) AND JP CHAIRMAN
DEMIREL, WHO POINTED OUT THAT A GENERAL STRIKE WOULD BE
UNLAWFUL. GOVERNMENTS MUST BE FORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
CONSTITUTION, BY ELECTIONS AND THE PROCEDURES OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY, HE SAID, NOT IN THE STREETS. TUNC IMMEDIATELY
CLAIMED THAT HIS REMARKS HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT BY
THE PRESS AND MISREPRESENTED. HE SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION
OF PROVOKING THE ARMY, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE PROTECTOR
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OF THE REPUBLIC AND STAUNCH DEFENDER OF ATATURK PRINCIPLES.

2. IN THE PERENNIAL DEBATE WITHIN TURK-IS AS TO WHICH
POLITICAL PARTY THE CONFEDERATION SHOULD SUPPORT, TUNC HAS
CONSISTENTLY LEANED TOWARD THE RPP; AND FOLLOWING THE
ELECTIONS HE ENDEAVORED TO EXERCISE HIS INFLUENCE IN FAVOR
OF A RPP GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF RPP CHAIRMAN

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ECEVIT. AFTER THAT GOVERNMENT FAILED TO WIN THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, TUNC CONTINUED TO MAKE STATEMENTS PARALLEL TO THOSE OF ECEVIT, AND NOW HE HAS TAKEN THE ULTIMATE STEP IN OPPOSING DEMIREL'S EFFORT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. HIS OPPOSITION TO THE NAP AND THE NSP IS SINCERE, FOR HE IS CONVINCED THEY THREATEN DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY, DEBASE THE PRINCIPLES OF ATATURK AND OPPOSE FREE TRADE UNIONISM.

3. HOW MUCH SUPPORT TUNC WILL FIND FOR HIS CALL REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THUS FAR ONLY A FEW UNIONS HAVE ENDORSED HIS STAND, AMONG THEM THE LEFT-LEANING TGS (JOURNALISTS' UNION), A TURK-IS MEMBER, AND THE LEFTIST TOB-DER (TEACHERS ORGANIZATION), AN INDEPENDENT. KEMAL TURKLER, PRESIDENT OF DISK, ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT HE WAS HAPPY TO HEAR TUNC HAD TAKEN THIS ATTITUDE AGAINST THE FORMATION OF A SECOND FRONTIST GOVERNMENT AND IN FAVOR OF THE "FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY". MANY OTHER UNIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH RPP LEADERSHIP, WILL BE IN SYMPATHY WITH TUNC, BUT THEY MAY HESITATE TO GO AS FAR AS TO PARTICIPATE IN A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED GENERAL STRIKE (WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD BE ILLEGAL). THE CONSERVATIVE UNIONS IN TURK-IS, PARTICULARLY THOSE LED BY JP SUPPORTERS, COULD ACTIVELY OPPOSE TUNC AND THREATEN HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE CONFEDERATION AND PUT THE UNITY OF TURK-IS ITSELF IN JEOPARDY.

4. WITH TURK-IS STRENGTH DIVIDED, A MASS MOVEMENT IN
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SUPPORT OF A GENERAL STRIKE SEEMS DOUBTFUL. IF THE ATTEMPT IS MADE, A PIECEMEAL APPROACH WOULD BE NECESSARY WITH EFFORTS MADE TO HALT SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMY, SUCH AS PUBLIC SERVICES, TRANSPORT AND POWER. INDEED, TUNC'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS INDICATED THAT WHAT HE HAS IN MIND WOULD RESULT IN A SERIES OF SHORT STRIKE ACTIONS, LIMITED IN AREA AND TIME, BUT FOLLOWING ONE ANOTHER TO ACHIEVE AN ACCUMULATIVE IMPACT.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Subject: COMMENTS ON PUBLIC STATEMENT ON POLITICAL SITUATION BY TURK-IS PRESIDENT TUNC
TAGS: ELAB, TU, TURKISH CONFED OF TRADE UNIONS, (TUNC, HALIL)
To: STATE
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